(c) whether Government has conducted any study in this regard; and

(d) whether any proposal is pending with Government to increase compensation being given to people for their losses due to this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Some of the State Governments have reported increase in loss of crop damages etc. due to elephant depredation. The Central Government has not conducted any study in this regard.

(d) There is no proposal with the Central Government to increase rates of compensation for losses as the same are fixed by the respective State Governments.

Coastal management zone

1121. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized and circulated the draft on the Coastal Management Zone in accordance with the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and has invited suggestions from all stake holders;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the salient features of this draft;

(c) the details of suggestions received from all stake holders;

(d) whether the National Fishworkers' Forum has expressed some reservations and instead offered some suggestions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued the draft Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) Notification on 1st May 2008 and with an amendment on 9th May 2008 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for inviting suggestion and objection from stakeholders. Based on the request made by some of the State Governments for extension of time, the Ministry has re-issued the CMZ Notification on 21st July 2008. The draft CMZ notification proposes to protect and promote sustainable development in the coastal and marine stretches through Integrated Coastal Zone Management Practices.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has received numbers of suggestions and objections from various stakeholders including public, Central and State Government, Industry Association including Fishermen' Association such as National Fishworkers' Forum. The major issues raised are lack of clarity on the set back line, provisions of the draft notification, loss of livelihood of fishermen community due to increased developmental activities etc.

Quartz and stone crushing units

1122. SHRI B. S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many quartz and stone crushing units in the country expose dust concentration between 81 and 660 times than the threshold limits;

(b) if so, whether Government has made any investigation through National Institute of Occupational Health in quartz and stone crushing units;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of quartz crushing units approved by the Central Pollution Board during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified emission standards in respect of stone crushing industry under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 read with rules. These emission standards are being implemented by the concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) in the respective States/UTs through 'consent mechanism' as per the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

The National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad has reportedly undertaken a study in stone crushers at Godhra, Gujarat for the purpose of the Factory Act. The NIOH has further reported that after installation of dust control devices in stone crushers, the dust level was brought down within the permissible level of exposure of human being.

(d) The SPCBs and the PCCs are empowered for granting 'consent to establish'/NOC and 'consent to operate' under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 in the respective States and UTs. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has not issued any 'consent to establish' or 'consent to operate' to stone crushers during last 3 years since, the CPCB is not authorized to do so under the law.

Minimum support price of minor forest produce

†1123. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for fixing minimum support price of minor forest produce has been received from Chhattisgarh Government;

(b) the amount sought from Centre for this purpose;

(c) the number of families dependent on the forest produce whose livelihood would be secured by the scheme; and

(d) Government's plan to accord approval thereto?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.